

February 3, 2015

**Housing Committee - Public Hearing on**

**Proposed H.B. No. 5489, An Act Concerning References Made to Housing Authorities**

**Written Testimony of Cathy K. Forcier**

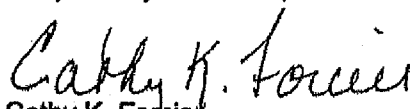
Ladies and Gentlemen of the Housing Committee --

I'd like to thank Representative Ryan for introducing this bill.

I have been a public housing practitioner for over 25 years. My experience includes being the current President of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials more commonly known as CONN-NAHRO. I am currently the Executive Director of the Wethersfield Housing Authority.

I fully support H.B. 5489 to provide criminal penalties for giving a false reference to a housing authority on behalf of a prospective tenant. Housing authorities rely upon the documentation received with an application for housing to determine whether an applicant can afford the rent and to determine if the applicant has the ability or willingness to comply with a lease. If income is falsified it is likely the housing authority will have to start the legal process for eviction due to nonpayment. If landlord references are falsified the housing authority is unable to judge the applicant's ability or willingness to comply with a lease contract. Again, this may result in an expensive legal process that could have been avoided.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cathy K. Forcier